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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT State Industries: State Cellulose Plant at Gara Krichim; State Milk Industry; Textile Mill in Stalin; Soda Plant in Rakna Devnya; Repair Stations for Machine Tractor Stations; Flax Mill in Strelcha

PLACE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE)

DATE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE)

25X1A

DATE (OF INFO)

REPORT NO

RESPONSIVE TO	
1	2
CD NO.	
DD/C NO.	
ORR NO.	
DAS NO.	
OCI NO.	

DATE DISTR. 24 Sep 1953

NO. OF PAGES 4

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Goods from the USSR for Bulgaria:

parts for the "DT-54", "STZ-NATI", "S-80", "U-2" tractors, tractor heads, and wheel axles, were unloaded in Burgas? These parts were taken in two freight trains to Tolbukhin in Dobrudzha from which they will be divided among MTS needing parts for repairing tractors, agricultural machinery, and grain drills. On 14 Apr 53, 17 "Stalinets-S" combines, spare parts for agricultural machinery, trucks, as well as rubber, arrived in Tolbukhin. These machines will be distributed through the "Zemsnab" Obedinenie (Durzhavno Predpriyatie Za Zemedelsko Snabdyavane) to MTS needing them. At the end of March 1953, the following goods which arrived from the USSR were unloaded at the Burgas Harbor: rubber, heavy machinery and equipment for the cellulose plant in Gara Krichim, for the "Lenin" Metallurgical Plant in Dimitrovo, for the "Vulko Chervenkov" Steam Heat and Electric Power Plant in Dimitrovo and transformers.

2. The "Stefan Kiradzhiev" State Cellulose Plant in Gara Krichim, Plovdiv Okoliva:

The State Cellulose Plant has been put into operation. The information we have is that one ton of wood wool (pith) yields one-half ton of cellulose. Petko Navdenyev, a Communist, is the chief of the production section. Engineer Metodi Georgiev is a specialist and director in the plant. The Knizhna Fabrika (Book Factory) is constructed near the plant which will process cellulose into paper. The average salary of the workers is 16 leva per day. The food in the cafeterias for workers is poor. Meat is served twice a week but the food is mostly composed of vegetables. Beans are served twice a week because there is not enough food in the stores. Two concrete-laying brigades from Samokov and Gabrovo Okolivas were formed. Construction work was completed by workers from Elena, Trun, and Belogradchik Okolivas. Many of the workers were not allowed to leave the work sites for several months for they had been promised that their families would be quartered in the area of the Cellulose Plant. However, living quarters are still not ready. The workers live in wooden barracks.

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3. State Milk Deliveries in Bulgaria:

In accordance with decrees of the Central Committee of the Party and the Council of Ministers, each owner of milk-producing animals (cows, sheep, water buffalo (cows), and goats) must deliver the quantity of milk per day designated by "Mlekokoop" ("Milk Cooperative"). Those milk producers who technically cannot reach the quota can process the milk and deliver to the state a definite amount of butter. This concession is made only with the special permission from the directors of "Mlekokoop" and with the knowledge of the Ministry of State Deliveries and Food Industry. The milk deliveries for the first three months of 1953 were not fulfilled as the following facts show:

- (a) The DZS (Durzhavno Zemedelsko Stopanstvo, State Farm) in the villages of Ostrov, Selanovtsi, Khurlets, and Sofronievo have not fulfilled their quotas for the delivery of milk. This also happened in Kharmanli, Godech, Elena, Dulovo, and Tolbukhin okoliyas. The information about the quantity of milk which was to be delivered by 12 Jan 53 was not communicated to the farmers.
- (b) Petur Karavuchov, chairman of the People's Soviet in Popints, Panagyurishte Okoliya, did not inform the villages prior to 15 Mar 53 / about the required deliveries / and the representative in Panagyurishte Okoliya from the Ministry of State Deliveries and Food Industry did not pay any attention to the sabotage of "Mlekokoop" and in other villages of the okoliya. He was relieved of his duties and prosecuted.
- (c) In Veselinovo, Kolarovgrad Okoliya, 417 liters of milk were handed in for three months while the quota was 37 thousand liters. As a result, Slavov was punished and the saboteurs were prosecuted. The authorities also wanted to make St Tsanov, the chairman of the people's Soviet, take some responsibility for this.
- (d) Georgi Mishev, a deputy and a Communist, who has two cows, does not make state milk deliveries. Yanaki Chobanov, a member of the Okrug People's Soviet, from Stalin did not make state milk deliveries. Agents of the militia collect milk quotas in Bulgaria, but the plan is not fulfilled.

4. The "Purvi May" Textile Mill in Stalin:

One of the largest textile mills in Stalin is the "Purvi May" Textile Mill where, in order that workers produce more, the trade union organized some dining rooms where better food is served than in the "Khoremag" (Obshtinsko Stopanrko Predpriyatie sa Khoteli, Restoranti, i Magazini, Communal Economic Enterprise for Hotels, Restaurants, and Stores). It has also provided for half of the workers to fly to the best summer resorts in the country. In addition, working mothers have the best arranged children's nurseries. However, all is not going well in the mill. The workers do not arrive at work on time and absence is a regular occurrence. Illness is widespread among the workers and there is not enough medicine. The price of medicine (if it can be found) is very high on the black market. It is necessary to have a prescription and permission from the town Party organization and the trade union at the mill to purchase medicine. More than half of the workers have been "noted" as members of the opposition. Foremen Nikola Petkov and Ivan Angelov were arrested and taken to be interrogated by the Stalin State Security. Section directors in the mill, Stefan Pardo, Ivan Kavyakov, and technical director Panayot Mekerev were warned that they would answer with their lives if they did not meet production norms in the mill, which during the last months of 1952 to March 1953 produced more spoiled goods than finished materials. The chief informants of the State Security are Anka Petrova, heroine of Socialist Labor, and the technical director, Trafunov, who are fanatical Communists and agents of the militia. Recently, cotton has been brought in from the USSR which was unloaded at Stalin harbor and taken to the mill, where it can be processed for the needs of the USSR. This is the chief reason for sabotage committed by workers. The workers are forced to work from two to five hours over the normal eight-hour working day to fulfill their norms set up in the yearly production plan because production is inferior. Some workers are forced to work without

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interruption in two shifts without overtime pay. In addition to inferior production, the absence of many workers and the poor conditions of looms result in their being idle for many hours. The section foreman in the mill, Kosta Kasabov, was also arrested because he allowed the disorganization of workers' collectives. The average month wages of the workers is from 480 to 690 leva.

5. The "Karl Marks" State Soda Plant:

Near the village of Reka Devnya, Provadiya Okoliya, the "Karl Marks" State Soda Plant has been built. The products which will be produced in this plant are: calcined soda, bicarbonate of soda, and caustic soda. The State Soda Plant is the largest plant in Bulgaria after the "Stalin" Chemical Combine in Dimitrograd, the "Lenin" State Metallurgical Plant in Dimitrovo, and the "Stefan Kiradzhiev" State Cellulose Plant in Gara Krichim, Plovdiv Okoliya. The directors of the machine assembly shop in the State Soda Plant are the following Soviet specialists: engineers Fotin, Kolomenski, Kalinkov, Shilov, and Gribanov. Now the repair and machine shop has been finished. Here lathes, air guns, pneumatic hammers, and welding equipment have been assembled. A 46-m high building for calcined soda, a shop for producing caustic soda, and bicarbonate of soda, a shop for purifying pickling solutions, and a limestone furnace will be constructed. The production process in this plant will be made fully automatic. The engineers and workers will play only a supervisory role involving the careful observation of measuring devices which are installed in large chemical apparatuses. The steam shovels are now digging the foundations for a steam-heat and electric power plant and the warehouses for limestone and coke. The 16-km steel pickling pipe (razsoloprovod), a nine-km pipe for waste waters, and a four-km cement pipe through which the waters of the "Lidetina" River will flow are ready. Living quarters will be built near the plant for the families of workers. After the State Soda Plant is finished, the following industrial enterprises will be built: a sugar plant, a cement plant, and a new cellulose plant. The Communist government wants to make a complete industrial center in this area similar to Dimitrograd.

6. Machinery for the State Soda Plant:

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many machines which will be assembled in the State Soda Plant have arrived from Czechoslovakia and the GDR through Rumania. Machines have also arrived directly from the USSR. In addition to Soviet "specialists and technicians" who direct the building of the plant, there are technicians and engineers from Czechoslovakia and the GDR. Attempts are being made to build up a "cadre" for the factories of Bulgarian specialists, engineers, and technicians.

7. Repair Stations for Machine Tractor Stations (MTS):

Because of the recent purge on account of sabotage by technicians and mechanics in the machine tractor stations and because of the delayed supply of spare parts for worn-out tractors and other types of agricultural machinery, the Council of Ministers, under the strain of popular resistance, had to organize four new control repair stations in Russ, Kolarovgrad, Plovdiv, and Karnobat. The most reliable Communist technicians and tractor drivers have been assigned to these new repair stations. Up to now these persons have been in the active service of the Directorate of the Militia. Their task is to control the machine tractor stations, personnel, and the condition of the agricultural machinery. They must supply the machine tractor stations with spare parts, and control the timely repair especially of tractors, combines, threshers, grain drills, and grain cleaners. These technicians control the technical personnel and administrative directors of MTS with respect to their political attitudes, their attitudes towards the work, and their interest towards the fulfillment of agricultural plans. This is a new measure intended against TRES and MTS where the resistance is increasing.

8. The Flax Mill in Sredets, Panagyurishte Okoliya

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In Strelcha there is a mill for processing flax and for producing linseed oil from flax seed. Plans provided for the sowing of over 3,500 decarees of flax in 1953 in the Pirdop area. The plan of the mill itself called for the sowing of 800 more decarees of land with flax seed, but the Section for Industrial Crops of "Zemsnab" (Duzhavno Predpriyatie za Zemedelsko Snabdyavane, State Enterprise for Agricultural Supplies) does not have enough seed to sow the whole area. The flax seed saved from the 1952 crop was taken care of carelessly and many people from the "Zemsnab" of the Pirdop Okoliya People's Soviet were implicated.

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718.3	20M	762.203	20M	8/727.61	20M
746	20M	711.211	20M	723.11	20M
729.15	20M	11/743.281	20M	11/741.2	20M
755.732	20M(N)	755.732	N(BI)	756.57	20M

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